

Department of Licensing Motorcycle Safety Advisory Board



Advisory Board Meeting Minutes October 3, 2008 Ellensburg Licensing Service Office 7:00 pm

1. Call to order - 7:02 pm

2. Introduction of Board members -

- Mike Gilbert, Bruce Santy, Chet Pennington, Larry Walker, Ron Wagner, and Phil Tribuzio

3. Review and approval of the minutes from the last meeting -

- Approved

4. Old Business -

- No old business.

5. New Business -

- Washington Traffic Safety Commission - Penny Nerup
She could not attend due budget and travel cuts, she will reschedule for another date. Steve is going to meet with Liz regarding the possibility her inviting Washington Traffic Safety Commission, and other agencies to one of our board meetings.
- Program Update – Steve Stewart
The task force challenged WSMP in 2006 to get 3000 trained students by the end of 2008. We were at 2300 students in 2007 and we are currently up 950 from last year, but he is not sure we will make the goal of 3000 by the end of 2008.

The biennium and all contracts end June 30, 2009, and the Request for Proposals has a targeted release date of November 19th. Bids are going to be handled differently than they have in the past; they are going to be opened to counties instead of cities and all monies will be designated to the area not to a particular school. This is projected to help with training.

There is a projected deficit when looking at the trend and if we continue the way we're going, we will be broke in six years. Renewals are down even though

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endorsements are up.

The E.Y.S. campaign funds go from October to October: we paid for 422 spots and the stations matched us with 500, and the impression was that 6,125,000 people were reached. With trained media staff conducting interviews on radio and in newspaper articles we believe about 3.4 million people were reached. Radio and newspaper seem to be more effective than television. We paid \$100,000 and got \$342,000 in media coverage.

Steve recognized each of his staff members that were present (Kyle, Lena, and Dawn), as well as Carole who was unable to attend.

There were several questions asked to Steve:

Q - Larry asked about the Quality Assurance Visits (QAV) regarding licensing since the new tech that the WSMP hires as left for a new job leaving us behind where we'd like to be.

A - We are working on those issues.

Q - Since you need more training sites, do contractors provide them?

A - Yes, it is part of the contract.

Q - What do we know about the Riders Edge program?

A - The contract is good through September 2009. The Kirkland range is ready, there is a dealership on the eastside for the class, and the first class is scheduled for October 23rd.

Q - Is there anything from DOL going to the legislature this upcoming session regarding motorcycles?

A - No, there is a reclassification on the 3 and 4 wheel vehicles but it is not coming from DOL.

Q - What about electric car classification?

A - It is being checked on, but otherwise it will have the same classification as any bike.

6. Comments for the Board -

Next Meeting- December 5, 2008 - Lacey Licensing Office

- Anticipated agenda items: Washington Traffic Safety Commission report - Penny Nerup

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7. Board Member Forum

- Chet explained that in the statistics in motorcycle fatalities, we are the only state in the nation that decreased from 2005 to present. Aggressive law enforcement and the number of endorsed riders combined is the reason. The increased number of trained riders has helped. It has taken the combination of several agencies to achieve this. He believes that more education is needed for military riders since most of them are transients to our state.
- Larry stated that the Navy has mandatory training for sports bikes for their personnel.
- Phil asked if the state has considered mandatory training before licensing is allowed.
- Dave Wendell told us that Florida tried this and it has been a nightmare for them since they now have 40-62 contractors and less staff.
- Ron stated that one of the problems is that dealerships will sell a bike to anyone with or without an endorsement.
- Steve explained that facilities are also a large problem. We run about 5000 short of training those who want to enroll in a class. Growth and misconception are a problem.
- Dave Wendell explained that he runs two classes a day, seven days a week and still has a waiting list.
- Ron asked if there were any statistics on the number of motorcycle crashes. Steve explained that we have tied the number of fatalities from last year and Chet thinks non-fatality collisions are up but doesn't have the exact number.

8. Public Forum -

- Rodney Myrup (RJ) stated that he has heard a lot about the numbers, and feels a large number of military people are in training due to a mandatory requirement by the military and some are even referred by dealers. He also asked if the quality of instructors is going down because of the number of instructors that we (WSMP) have been training. He himself has not seen a state employee in over a year. He also asked if Riders Edge would be in competition with MSF, subsidized, and would they be governed by WSMP. Steve responded to RJ by reminding him that QAVs are not just looking at instructors, they are looking at the contractor and they contractors are the ones who need to check on instructors not WSMP. Steve reassured him that Riders Edge is not in competition with MSF and they will not be subsidized, but will be governed by WSMP.
- Jeff White with the Motorcycle Victims Accident Fund (mvaf.org) asked if dealerships are involved with the training program. Dave Wendell (Pacific Northwest Motorcycle Safety) explained that out of 11 dealerships two are reluctant to sell a motorcycle to riders without an endorsement. Most cases it is the manufacturer who will offer a rebate for training and not the dealership. Larry

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told Jeff to get in touch with Steve Duncan to get more information regarding this. Michael Davis (Cape Fox) stated that several programs could not survive without some sort of support from dealer and a lot have their own inventory out with contractors.

- Clinard Hill (Motorcycle Training Inc.) commented that people with endorsements that don't own a motorcycle is incredible. Steve replied the number of registered motorcycles is about 282,000 versus the 302,000 of endorsed riders. The statistics used to be 2 to 1, but the gap is more like 1 to 1 now.
- Michael Davis asked if there was any data on the effects of the Impound Law. Chet said there wasn't any data that he knew of, and comments from the group that said the impound numbers were up for those without endorsements. Chet has not seen the numbers on it and if gets some data he will bring it to the board. Larry stated that a request for the data will be coming sometime in January 2009 to the WSP regarding impounds and looking to see if some areas are more zealous than others.
- Bruce Scott an instructor for the Intermediate Riders Course (IRC) believes that at least 95% of the IRC students are in the class to get their endorsement, even though there are no statistics to prove or disprove it. Steve explained that endorsements and permits jumped in June since the law went into effect in July.
- Jeff White asked if WSMP used rider simulators. Steve stated that a simulator uses traffic interaction not riding and does nothing for inaction with what is going on around you, so no we do not use them, however full motion simulators may someday be available to the public.
- Jeff White (mvaf.org) explained to the group about his organization and how it came to be what it is today. They do not want people to go through what they did with the loss of a loved one. They are about education and awareness and work on "share the road" campaign. They use grass roots efforts to get the message out. They held a ride safe campaign at Bothell High School and had 300 students attend. The crowd was combined of 50/50 boys and girls, and when talking to about 30 young men they said they would go through safety training because it was fun, cheap, lowered their insurance, and because it was a requirement for them to be able to get an endorsement. They want to stress to the kids and everyone else that you should "know who you're getting on a bike with!" It was a great experience for them. Larry feels we could work this into our safety program.
- Rolf Vitous (Evergreen Safety Council) asked what the statistics on alcohol relating to accidents were. Steve said about 1/2 .

9. Adjourn – 8:13 pm